

Ms. L. Garrison
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Boston, Sept. 11, 1865.

My dear McKim:

Some days ago, I received a letter from Rev. Mr. Shepherd, of Chicago, stating that "at a Convention of gentlemen, representing the leading Freedmen's Aid Societies of the East and West, and the late Sanitary and Christian Commissions, held in the City of New York on Thursday, August 24th, it was resolved, after a free and satisfactory interchange of sentiment, to proceed to the organization of a National Freedmen's Aid Commission"; informing me that I had been elected a Vice President of the same; and requesting me to be present, on Friday next, 15th inst., at 9 o'clock, A. M., at the first meeting of the Board of Managers, at the Rooms of the American Freedmen's Aid Union, 67 Nassau Street, New York." To this letter I replied that I deemed it an honor to be

connected with such a Commission, and would endeavor to attend the meeting aforesaid.

But I took it for granted that "the leading Freedmen's Aid Societies of the East and West" had been officially and authoritatively represented on the occasion of the formation of the Commission, and that such formation was in accordance with their wishes. This, certainly, was not the case in regard to the New England Freedmen's Aid Society; as I ascertained on Thursday evening last, at a meeting of the Society, where the Rev. Mr. Lowe, who was present unofficially at the New York meeting which formed the Commission, gave a minute account of all that transpired at that meeting, and of the part he took in it. Rev. John Parkman, who also was at the meeting with Mr. Lowe in New York, was not present with us to give us his version of the matter. But, after hearing Mr. Lowe's statements, the

surprise was general that the Commission should have been organized at such an informal meeting, where no credentials were presented, probably none held from any Society, and certainly none called for; and the vote was unanimous in dissenting from such a procedure. A committee, consisting of Mr. Lowe, Mr. Philbrick, and myself, was appointed to correspond with other Freedmen's Societies, (Philadelphia, Baltimore, &c.,) in regard to the Commission, and to express the views of the N. E. F. A. Society in regard to it.

At that time, none of the proceedings had been sent for approval from New York to the Society; but, on Saturday, an uncertified copy of the same was received, and also an announcement of the special meeting to be held on Friday morning next in New York. A special meeting of the Society, therefore, will be held on Wednesday evening next, to see what further action to take in the premises.

It is not understood how the Commission is called for by any exigencies connected with the Freedmen's cause. What is to become of the American Freedmen's Aid Society? Is it willing to be merged in the other, or in an Eastern branch of the Commission? Why not first have delegates from the various Societies already in the field appointed to meet in conference, and duly empowered to act, before assuming their readiness to accept the Commission as their head? I do not think the N. E. F. A. Society will feel disposed to send any of its officers or members to the New York meeting on Friday; and it is not probable that I shall be present. Yet there is an earnest desire here to have the utmost harmony preserved between ^{all} those societies and individuals ^{that} ~~who~~ are laboring in the Freedmen's cause.

Your attached friend
Wm Lloyd Garrison.

J. M. McKim.